

Spanning the Gap

Using Cell Phones Means Needing Cell Towers



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Spanning the Gap
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The National Park Service wants to know how the public feels about cell towers within the recreation area.

The recreation area has received 8 applications for cell phone towers within its boundaries -- 2 from Verizon Wireless and 6 from AT&T Wireless. Though the proposed service is for 20 miles of Rt. 209 on the Pennsylvania side of the park, all but 1 of the applications are for tower/antenna sites along

the mountain ridges on the New Jersey side, roughly from Flatbrookville to Namanock Island. (The Pennsylvania site is just south of Milford.)

One site could be shared by both companies or *co-located*; it is in New Jersey, at an area formerly used by the park for a radio antenna. The proposed cell towers are *monopoles*, ranging in height from 100 to 150 ft., with the possibility of extensions to 199 ft. The towers would be near, but not on top of, the ridge, in locations where the tree canopy is about 60 to 80 feet high. The towers will be visible from many



WSBG Radio Tower along the Appalachian Trail atop Mt. Minsi. Curving up from the lower left is Totts Gap Road (now closed to automobiles within the park) and at lower center is a former hang-glider site. In the distance is Mt. Tammany NJ and at the upper left is the Delaware River flowing downstream to the Water Gap..



areas of the park.

The recreation area will review the applications to determine if the cell phone towers requested are an appropriate use of the public recreation lands that would be impacted. The review process includes a complete analysis of archeological, cultural, natural, socio-economic, and other impacts. The park will also follow the guidance of its enabling legislation, which mandates that the park

provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment ... and for the preservation of the scenic, scientific, and historic features contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters. (Public Law 89-158)

Park managers will utilize the *National Environmental Protection Act*, *Historic Preservation Act* and other relevant laws while considering requirements of the *Telecommunications Act of 1996*. Public input will be critical and will be actively sought throughout the review process.

(Above) The park uses 5 "repeaters," ranging in height from 20 to 100 ft., in its digital radio transmissions among field personnel. The installation shown includes a 40-foot wood pole and a 20 x 30 ft. enclosure in a forest clearing well off Old Mine Road NJ. A proposed cell tower adjacent to it would require a 100-foot steel pole (extendable to 199 ft.), a 50 x 50 ft. enclosure, and further development of the existing dirt access road.

A power line passes over the top of Kittatinny Ridge and crosses the Appalachian Trail at this point before descending out of the recreation into western New Jersey. In the distance is the area around Mt. Tammany.



Catfish Fire Tower above Rattlesnake Swamp on Kittatinny Ridge, seen from Route 602 (Millbrook-Blairstown) Road). The tower's access road, with the Appalachian Trail, forms a popular loop hike to the ridge.

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